

### **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

#### **Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1 – 5 (cancelled)

Claims 6 – 21 (cancelled)

Claim 22 (currently amended):        A method which may be used to protect equipment from corrosion, said method comprising protecting pieces of equipment from corrosion by treating said pieces of equipment with a first protective coating, wherein:

- a)        said pieces of equipment are intended to be exposed to high temperatures and to at least one fluid, wherein said fluid comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of:
  - 1)        a hydrocarbon; and
  - 2)        carbon monoxide;
- b)        said pieces of equipment are made from an alloy, wherein said alloy comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of:
  - 1)        nickel;
  - 2)        iron;
  - 3)        chromium; and
  - 4)        aluminum; and
- c)        said pieces of equipment are joined together with joining pieces, wherein:
  - 1)        said joining pieces are protected from corrosion over at least part of their surface by a second protective coating;
  - 2)        said joining pieces are externally welded to said pieces of equipment; said joining pieces having a geometry such that there is no internal welding required on said joining pieces, and
  - 3)        said protecting of said joining pieces occurs prior to said welding of said joining pieces.

Claim 23 (previously presented):        The method of claim 22, further comprising producing said second protective coating by aluminization.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): An apparatus which may be used for generating a synthesis gas from a hydrocarbon mixture, said apparatus comprising:

- a) at least two equipment pieces, wherein:
  - 1) said equipment pieces are exposed to high temperatures and at least one fluid, wherein said fluid comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of:
    - i) a hydrocarbon; and
    - ii) carbon monoxide;
  - 2) said equipment pieces are made of an alloy, wherein said alloy comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of:
    - i) nickel;
    - ii) iron;
    - iii) chromium; and
    - iv) aluminum; and
  - 3) said equipment pieces comprise a first protective coating, wherein said first protective coating provides said equipment pieces with protection from corrosion; and
- b) at least one joining piece, wherein:
  - 1) said joining piece is welded to said equipment pieces;
  - 2) said joining piece is at least partly exposed to said fluid; and
  - 3) said joining piece comprises a second protective coating, wherein said second protective coating provides at least part of said joining piece with protection from corrosion.

Claim 25 (withdrawn): The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said second protective coating is produced by aluminization.